

## The Parable of the Sower Matthew 13:1-23

### Why Parables?

***"This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand."** Matthew 13:13*

1. To CONCEAL the truth from the hardhearted and self-righteous as a form of judgement

Hearing they do not hear...What does this mean?

- Distracted listening:
- Comfortable listening:
- Selective listening:

Rooted in Idolatry

<sup>4</sup>Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands.

<sup>5</sup>They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see.

<sup>6</sup>They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell.

<sup>7</sup>They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk;  
and they do not make a sound in their throat.

<sup>8</sup>**Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them.**" Psalm 115:4-8

How does idolatry make us blind and deaf to God's Word?

2. To REVEAL the truth to those eager and hungry to hear and understand in humility

***"And he answered them, 'To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.'" Matthew 13:11***

Parable: a comparison between some commonplace reality and a profound spiritual truth

To those who seek

- "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." Matthew 6:33
- "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they shall be satisfied." Matthew 5:6

To those who come humbly

- "...unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:3-4

He is delighted to reveal Himself

- "In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children.'" Luke 10:21
- "Fear not little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." Luke 12:32

## **So HEAR then the parable of the sower...**

What is the Lord telling us about His kingdom?

What is He delighted to reveal to us?

What aspects of the sower, the seed, and the soils are familiar/unfamiliar to you?

What is the only evidence of the quality of the soil?

## **The Soil of the Heart**

What is the state of the soil of all of our hearts?

- "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?" Jeremiah 17:9
- "None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." Romans 3:10-12

How have you been the hardened path?

The shallow, sun-scorched ground?

The impure ground tangled in weeds and thorns?

How can any of our hearts have clean and pure soil to produce fruit?

His lovingkindness and merciful compassion

- “And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.” Ezekiel 36:26-27
- “I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.” Jeremiah 31:33

## **Those who have ears let them hear**

The Father is the Sower  
Christ is the Seed, the Word of God  
The Holy Spirit prepares the soil of our hearts

The Sower:

- “...and they have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.” John 17:8

The Seed:

- “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...” John 1:14

The Soil:

- “God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.” Romans 5:5

He must CREATE

- **“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.”** Psalm 51:10

### **Questions for Personal Reflection**

1. In what ways do I have distracted, comfortable, or selective hearing of God’s Word?
2. In what areas of my life am I seeking signs and wisdom instead of seeking to understand the Lord and His kingdom?
3. How do I come humbly to the Word with childlike faith?
4. What fruit am I bearing in my life?
5. Take time to meditate in and pray through Psalm 51 this week.

“Blessed are the **pure in heart**, for they shall **see** God.” Matthew 5:8